



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Joseph Martella
Office of Land Revitalization and Sustainable Materials Management
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

FROM: David Rusczyk, GZA GeoEnvironmental
Kenneth Lento, National Grid

GZA PROJECT NO. 05.0043654.60

DATE: December 3, 2021

SUBJECT: River Sheen Impacts
Former Tidewater Facility
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

As you are aware, The Narragansett Electric Company (TNEC) is in the process of implementing a Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) approved remedy at the former Tidewater Facility located at 200 Taft Street in Pawtucket, Rhode Island (herein referred to as the Site). The approved remedy includes installation of a steel sheetpile containment wall with sealed interlocked joints and a revetment system along the banks of the Seekonk River to mitigate the migration of non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPLs) from the upland portion of the Site to the river. Construction of the revetment system includes regrading of the shoreline of the Site, installation of reactive core matting on the surface of the regraded shoreline, and installation of a riprap armor layer. Prior to regrading of the shoreline of the river, the contractor performing the work, Charter Contracting Company, LLC (Charter), installed absorbent booms and a turbidity curtain within the Seekonk River encompassing the active riverbank work area consistent with the project's permits.

On December 1, 2021 at approximately 7:30 am, during regrading of the shoreline in the northern portion of the Site proximate to a riverbank cap that was previously installed in 2009, petroleum sheens breached the absorbent boom and turbidity curtain installed in the river. The breach resulted in the migration of a petroleum sheen extending approximately 2,200 feet downriver (south) of the active work area as shown on the attached figure. Based on observations made in the field on the day of the incident, the visual water impacts predominantly consisted of light-colored sheens. Although the amount of coal tar released from the soils/sediments being excavated is unknown, we have estimated that 2 to 20 gallons of weathered coal tar breached the absorbent boom and turbidity curtain based on the type of sheen observed and the area the sheen covered.



Upon identification of the breach, Charter discontinued work, notified the United States Coast Guard's National Response Center at 10:26 am, and immediately implemented corrective measures. TNEC also notified RIDEM of the breach at 09:53 am. Corrective measures implemented by Charter included:

- Deployment of additional absorbent booms directly downstream of the work area;
- Deployment of absorbent booms at the downriver end of the observed extent of impact (approximately 2,200 feet downriver of the work area);
- Recovery of the observed sheens on the surface of the water using absorbent booms dragged by work boats; and,
- Recovery of the observed sheens proximate to the shoreline using absorbent booms dragged between a work boat in the river and a laborer walking on the shoreline of the river.

Sheen recovery activities within the river and along the shoreline downriver of the work area extended through the day of December 2, 2021. Additional activities to recover residual sheens were conducted on December 3, 2021.

We also note that representatives of RIDEM's Emergency Response Division, and the Coastal Resources Management Council met separately with TNEC at the Site on December 2, 2021. No additional corrective actions were indicated as necessary beyond the recovery efforts already taking place as a result of these meetings.

Prior to resumption of work activities, the following additional actions will be implemented:

- Additional absorbent boom and pads will be acquired and be available on Site for rapid deployment;
- An additional work/support boat will be mobilized to the Site and made available to support inspections, replacement of spent materials, and to respond to sheens within the containment boom as they occur; and
- The extent of disturbed/uncapped riverbank at any given time will be reduced to limit the potential migration of upland impacts to the river.

We trust this information meets your current needs. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Kenneth Lento at 617-791-2627.

Attachments:

Approximate Extent of Visual Impact in River

Former Tidewater Facility

Legend

- Approximate Extent of Sheen

